

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for coating a prosthesis, comprising:
  - (A) providing information from one or more sources;
  - (B) electronically analyzing the information to generate at least one treatment plan for coating a prosthesis; and
  - (C) instructing a prosthesis coating device to coat the prosthesis based on the treatment plan.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the prosthesis is coated at the time of surgery.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the prosthesis coating device uses injection coating.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the prosthesis coating device uses contact printing.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the information includes information from at least one of DESI and PP databases.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein the information is analyzed using rules.
7. The method of claim 6, wherein the rules are based on at least one of: general and physician-specific clinical standards of practice, cost constraints, regulatory constraints, medical necessity requirements, patient specific requirements, and pharmacokinetic principles.
8. The system of claim 1, wherein the information includes one or more of: insurance information, credit information, patient records, patient lab data, prosthesis type information, prosthesis availability, coating information, and clinical study

results.

9. A prosthesis coating decision support system comprising:

a workstation to generate a treatment plan for coating a prosthesis to be implanted in a patient; and

a prosthesis coating device, wherein the workstation controls said prosthesis coating device to coat a prosthesis according to the treatment plan.

10. The system of claim 9, further comprising one or more information sources coupled to said workstation, the information sources providing information used by the workstation to generate the treatment plan.

11. The system of claim 10, wherein the information includes one or more of: insurance information, credit information, patient records, patient lab data, prosthesis type information, prosthesis availability, coating information, and clinical study results.

12. The system of claim 10, wherein the information sources include at least one of the DESI and PP databases.

13. The system of claim 9, wherein the treatment plan includes one or more of: a recommendation as to whether to coat, a prosthesis coating specification, prosthesis architecture, prosthesis material, coating types, coating costs, coating methods, and patient insurance coverage.

14. A prosthesis coating decision support method comprising:

(A) using a workstation to develop a treatment plan;

(B) communicating the treatment plan to a physician; and

(C) controlling a prosthesis coating device to implement the treatment plan

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when the treatment plan is approved by the physician.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein the treatment plan recommends not coating the prosthesis.

16. The method of claim 14, wherein the workstation is a personal computer.

17. The method of claim 14, wherein the workstation controls the prosthesis coating device.

18. The method of claim 14, further comprising providing information to the workstation used to develop the treatment plan.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein the information includes one or more of: insurance information, credit information, patient records, patient lab data, prosthesis type information, prosthesis availability, coating information, and clinical study results.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein the information is provided from at least one of the DESI and PP databases.

21. The method of claim 19, wherein the treatment plan includes one or more of: a recommendation as to whether to coat, a prosthesis coating specification, prosthesis architecture, prosthesis material, coating types, coating costs, coating methods, and patient insurance coverage.

22. The method of claim 14, wherein a plurality of treatment plans are developed by the workstation and communicated to the physician, and the step (C) includes controlling the prosthesis coating device implement the treatment plan selected and approved by the physician.

23. A prosthesis coating decision support method comprising:
- (A) entering patient information at a workstation;
  - (B) generating one or more treatment plans at the workstation based at least in part on the patient information;
  - (C) selecting one of said one or more treatment plans; and
  - (D) implanting said prosthesis in accordance with said treatment plan.
24. The method of claim 23, further comprising coating the prosthesis according to said treatment plan prior to step (D).
25. The method of claim 23, wherein the one or more treatment plans include one or more of: a recommendation as to whether to coat, a prosthesis coating specification, prosthesis architecture, prosthesis material, coating types, coating costs, coating methods, and patient insurance coverage.
26. A computer readable medium containing instructions for use in a process for formulating a treatment plan for use in a prosthesis coating decision support system, the process including:
- (A) analyzing information including at least one of: insurance information, credit information, patient records, patient lab data, prosthesis type information, prosthesis availability, coating information, and clinical study results.
  - (B) generating one or more treatment plans based on the analysis of step (A), wherein the one or more treatment plans include at least one of a recommendation as to whether to coat, a prosthesis coating specification, prosthesis architecture, prosthesis material, coating types, coating costs, coating methods, and patient insurance coverage.